



NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY
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Dear Dr. Jenet

This letter is in support of our collaboration to involve talented under-served minority students in the astronomy and astrophysics conducted at the Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope (GBT), at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, WV.

The ARCC project under development at the University of Texas at Brownsville has already demonstrated its ability to attract students and directly involve them in a major research project at the Arecibo Radio Observatory. We welcome the opportunity to expand this project to include research conducted at the GBT as well.

The remote command center program has the unique ability to educate underrepresented minority students about radio astronomy and the role the GBT plays in the field; involve them first hand in an important research project; and have them perform much need tasks for the scientific collaboration.

We support the idea of installing web cameras at the facility to enhance the observing experience for students, provided appropriate radio frequency mitigation measures are taken to insure that the cameras do not interfere with normal telescope operations.

This collaboration has real benefits for the NRAO as well. Currently, we are developing a program at the GBT to involve West Virginia high school students in a similar project to reduce and interpret pulsar data. The web based tools that are being created by the ARCC program could be enormously useful to our program, and I am sure that, through this partnership, we will be able to further develop and refine these tools collaboratively.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sue Ann Heather".

Education Officer
NRAO-Green Bank, WV



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